

# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine

## Site Screen Report

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.*

## Ada and Nordell AUM Site

### Navajo AUM Western Region

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.599.1111**

**January 2011**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status****Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 529**Map ID:** W87**CERCLIS:** NNN000909114**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** None**Local name / Aliases:** Nordell; Ada and Nordell No. 2, 3 and 4**Chapter and local area:** State of Arizona**County:** Coconino **State:** Arizona**Lat/Long:** 35.7475436639 N / -111.370275201 W**Nearby road and highway:** Highway 89**Local Post Office:** Cameron, AZ**Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

**Tribal Trust Land** ☐  
**Private** ☐  
**Bureau of Land Mgmt** ☐  
**State** ☒

**Public lands** ☐  
**Tribal Fee Land** ☐  
**Allotment** ☐  
**Fee land** ☐

**Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

**Claim and operator information:**

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. No additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

**Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine:** None**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:** 317 yd<sup>3</sup>

## Part II Summary of radiological readings

### Highest gamma radiation measurement:

289,861 counts per minute (cpm)

### Describe any other radiological measurements:

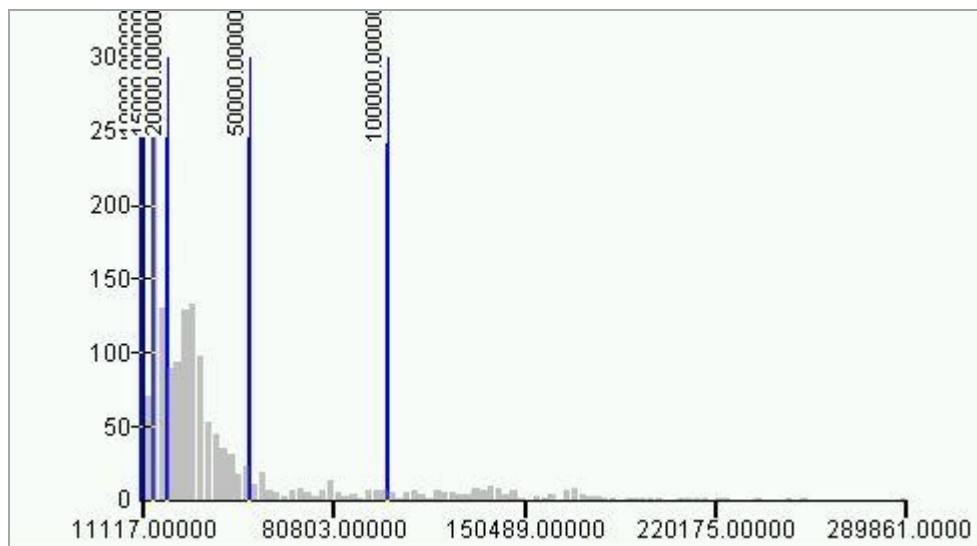
A total of 1,515 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 11,117 cpm to 289,861 cpm. The measurements collected at the waste piles were found at maximum levels ranging from approximately 150,000 cpm to 250,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Background Readings:** 16,540 cpm

**Background Average:** 16,540 cpm

### Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Count:              | 1515           |
| Minimum:            | 11117.00000    |
| Maximum:            | 289861.00000   |
| Sum:                | 61489160.00000 |
| Mean:               | 40586.90429    |
| Median:             | 26686.00000    |
| Standard Deviation: | 40649.04911    |

### **Part III      Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste**

**The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:**

**NAMLRP Status of the mine site:** Reclaimed : Unknown      **Waste Pile onsite :** No

**NAMLRP Project Number:** None

**NAMLRP Mine features:** None

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**The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:**

**Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.**

#### **Observed reclamation work and status:**

##### **Adits**

None

##### **Waste Piles**

6 small waste piles with yellow brown soil, each 10' x 10' x 3'; 6 medium waste piles each 15' x 15' x 5' with grey coarse material

##### **Pits**

None

##### **Shafts**

None

##### **Other Debris and Mine Features**

Wood and metal boundary markers labeled "Western Nuclear"

## **Part IV**

### **Site observations and Environs**

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

None

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** None

**0.25 miles to 4 miles:** Windmill Well approximately 2.5 mi NW of the site; Little Colorado River Basin approximately 2.5 mi E of the site

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.**

Ada and Nordell mine consists of an area of 19,136.69 m<sup>2</sup>. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

## **Part V            Response Action Summary**

### **Summary of Evaluation Factors:**

#### ***Accessibility:***

**Was the mine easily accessible to potential human activity?**

Yes

#### ***Radiological Measurements:***

**Were any gamma radiation measurements collected at the mine greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Yes

#### ***Waste Piles:***

**Were any unreclaimed waste piles observed at the mine with gamma radiation measurements greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Yes

#### ***Structures:***

**Were any structures observed within 200 feet of the mine?**

No

#### ***Potential Drinking Water Sources:***

**Were any potential drinking water sources observed within 4 miles of the mine?**

Yes

#### ***Reclamation:***

**Was the mine reported to be previously reclaimed, or did the mine appear to be reclaimed?**

Unknown

## Part VI      Photos



Photo 1. Ada and Nordell mine site



Photo 2. Ada and Nordell mine site, medium waste piles



Photo 3. Ada and Nordell mine site, small waste piles



Photo 4. Ada and Nordell mine site, waste pile



Photo 5. Ada and Nordell mine site, waste piles



Photo 6. Ada and Nordell mine site, boundary marker

**Part VII      Contacts Reports and Information**Name: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund ProgramAddress PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

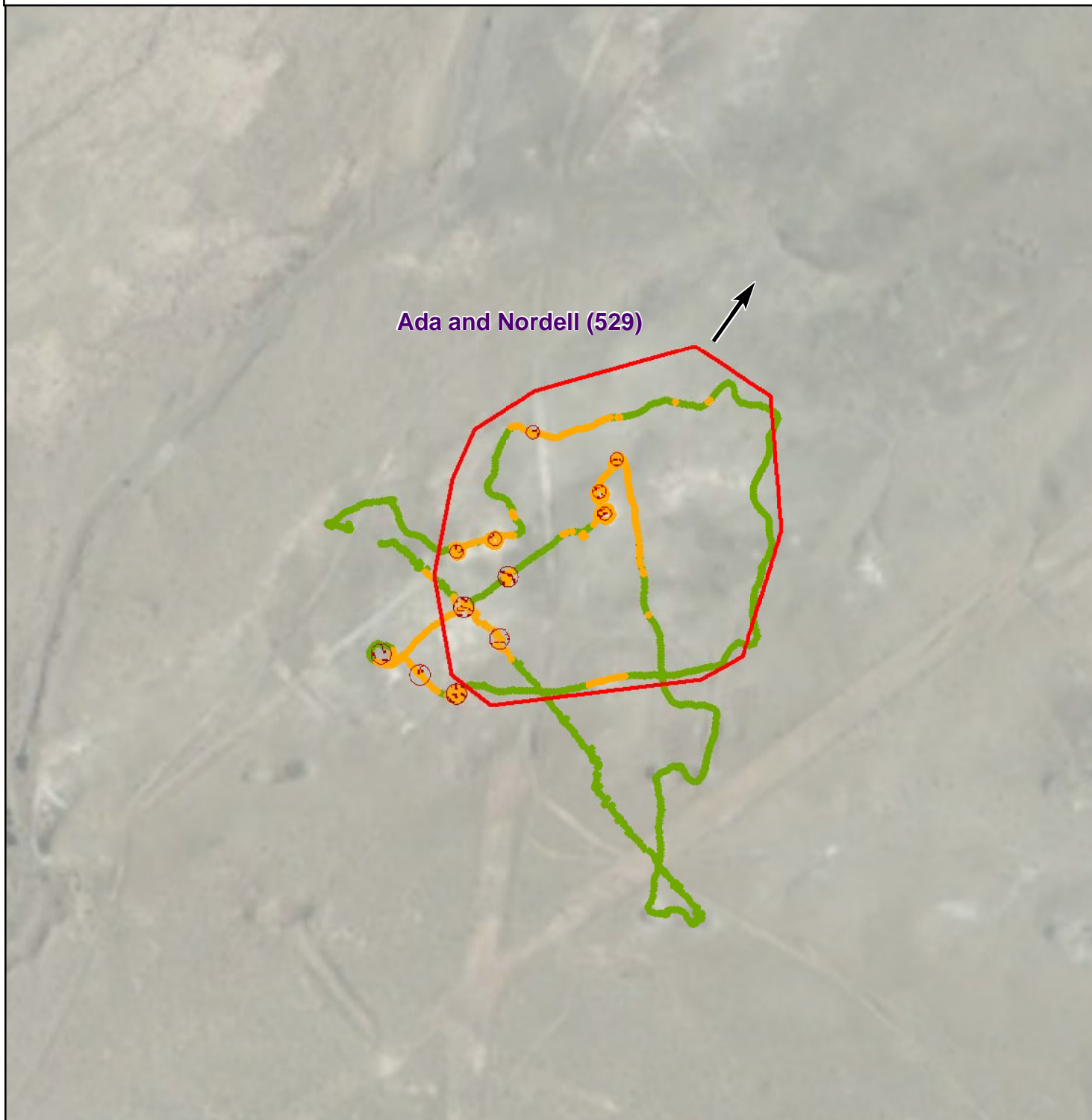
Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background  
Ada and Nordell (529)  
Coconino County, Arizona**



## Legend

### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 16,540 cpm

→ General Slope Direction

Observed Waste Pile

Mine Site Boundary



0 250 Feet



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**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements  
Ada and Nordell (529)  
Coconino County, Arizona**



### Legend

#### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000

→ General Slope Direction



Observed Waste Pile



Mine Site Boundary

**Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)**

**Average background 16,540 cpm**



0 250 Feet



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